

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-10

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 27.

SUMMARY: SOME TRAVELERS FINALLY BROKE OUTSIDE TO PAGE 1
WITH LEADS BASED ON US MINE-CLEARING TEAM WORKING WITH
EGYPTIANS ON CANAL. RADIO-TV REPORTAGE DURING DAY PERFUNC-
TORY UNTIL WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ISRAELI POW LIST,
WHEN BULLETINS INTERRUPTED REGULAR PROGRAMMING. GROMYKO'S
REPORTED DAMASCUS VISIT ALSO PROMINENTLY PLAYED. END
SUMMARY

1. NYT (GWERTZMAN, P1) BLENDS ACTIVITIES OF USN
ORDNANCE TEAM IN EGYPT WITH SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL DAMASCUS AND
ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS TO ISRAEL AND CAIRO. NOTES OFFICIAL
AWARENESS OF IRONY OF SIX-MAN US MINE-CLEARING TEAM
ADVISING ON CANAL RECONSTRUCTION AFTER SOVS HAD SENT THOUS-
ANDS OF MEN AND SPENT BILLIONS OF RUBLES IN EARLIER AID
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EFFORTS. DESCRIBES EGYPT'S DECISION TO SEEK US HELP AS

ANOTHER SIGN CAIRO WANTS CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US EVEN AT RISK OF IRRITATING SOVS. STORY ALSO NOTED THESE POINTS MADE BY US OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH PARTY:(A) AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE SURPRISED WHEN PRESIDENT AGAIN MONDAY PREDICTED END OF OIL EMBARGO. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS WISER, IN LIGHT OF FUROR IN ARAB WORLD OVER HIS STATE OF UNION

REMARKS, TO AVOID PUBLIC COMMENTS. US OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT AS FAR AS THEY KNEW, MR. NIXON ONLY EXPRESSING PERSONAL HOPE AND DID NOT HAVE SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE END OF EMBARGO; (B) WHILE WE HOPE NEW SALT APPROACH WILL BRING FAVORABLE SOV RESPONSE, NO MAJOR PROGRESS EXPECTED UNTIL HAK GOES TO MOSCOW TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRIP; (C) IF ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT WORKS, HAK WILL TRY TO WORK OUT FINAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL, EGYPT, NOT JUST ANOTHER INTERMEDIARY STAGE; (D) IF ALL GOES WELL, HAK WILL GO TO BRUSSELS IN APRIL TO SIGN NATO, EC DECLARATION. GWERTZMAN MADE NO DIRECT ATTRIBUTIONS.

2. WASHPOST (BERGER P1) HAS ESSENTIALLY SAME STRUCTURED PIECE, LEADING WITH MINESWEEPERS, TOUCHING ON HAK'S BUSY SCHEDULE, AND, AFTER 400 WORDS, TURNS TO EMBARGO AND POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT TO FAISAL ON CURRENT TOUR. SAYS OFFICIAL IN SEC'S PARTY TOUCHED ON EMBARGO CONSIDERABLY MORE CAUTIOUSLY THAN PRESIDENT DID MONDAY NIGHT. QUOTES HAK THUS ON TERMINATION; "WE DON'T HAVE ANY PRECISE DATE IN MIND." THE PRESIDENT, ACC HAK, HAD BEEN SPEAKING GENERALLY, TO INDICATE THAT "THE VARIOUS EFFORTS SUPPORT EACH OTHER, THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE WILL SPELL PROGRESS TOWARDS LIFTING THE EMBARGO." HOWEVER, HAK DID NOT REVERSE THIS FORMULA AND REPEAT PRESIDENT'S WARNING THAT FAILURE TO LIFT EMBARGO COULD END PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. BALANCE OF STORY MELANGE OF PRESIDENT'S MOSCOW TRIP PLANS, QUOTES OF HIGH OFFICIALS SAYING US HAD GIVEN SOVS SALT IDEAS ON "ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCIES" (DIRECT QUOTE), AND ANALYSIS OF COUNTERS IN PRESENT SALT ROUND.

3. JERRY O WAS NO-SHOW IN ALL EDITIONS OF WASHSTAR. THEIR ONLY REFERENCE TO TRIP WAS P1 TREATMENT OF WHITE HOUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF POW LIST, WITH WIRE SHIRTTAILS FROM THE AREA DISCUSSING GROMYKO'S PLANNED ME VISIT.

4. BALTSUN (KEAT) LED THE PAPER WITH THE CANAL-CLEARING ANGLE IN 450 WORDS. NO DIRECT QUOTES USED, AND ONLY REMARKABLE NOTE BEING AMERICAN OFFICIAL INTERPRETING PRESIDENT'S MONDAY COMMENTS AS ATTEMPT TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON ARABS TO LIFT EMBARGO. ALSO FRONT-PAGED WAS SEPARATE

KEAT STORY (NO SIGNER) EX DAMASCUS EXPLAINING SETTLEMENT OF MAJOR INTERNAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN USG OVER TERMS OF NEW SALT AGREEMENT. EXTENSIVE 500 WORD STORY SEEMS TO REFLECT BACKGROUNDING IN SOME DEPTH THIS QUESTION BUT USES NO DIRECT QUOTES; ALL PARAPHRASED ATTRIBUTION TO SENIOR US OFFICIALS IN PARTY.

5. NYDN HAS NO CARTER, CARRIES 10-GRAF UPI EX DAMASCUS ON P6.

6. AS YESTERDAY, CHITRIB HAS ONLY AGENCY COPY ON HAK'S TRIP AND AGAIN HAD NO STARR. AM CHECKING WITH TRIB BUREAU HERE TO SEE IF STARR MAKING IN LATER EDITIONS WE NOT GETTING.

7. AGAIN DITTO HEARST PAPERS/WALLACH. BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE TO AWAIT MAIL DELIVERY THIS PRODUCT AND RECAP LATER.

8. WIRES (AP, UPI) PM CYCLE STORIES UNDRAMATIC RECOUNTS OF HAK'S TRAVELS AND TRAVEL PLANS. BOTH AGENCIES LOST OVER-NIGHT LEADS TO WHITE HOUSE AND POW LIST.

9. COVERAGE OF TV EVENING NEWS SHOWS TO FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. CASEY

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